

Management approves the distribution of funds, the Department shall distribute the funds from the reserve for that use.

Requested by: Senators Odom, Perdue, Plyler

#### **REGIONAL WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT**

**Section 15.15.** (a) Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources by this act, the sum of eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$850,000) for the 1997-98 fiscal year shall be allocated for costs associated with further development of a regional wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system that uses an innovative technology to reduce nutrient and organic loadings to surface waters and the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) shall be allocated for wastewater infrastructure in Union County.

(b) The Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources shall report by April 1, 1998, regarding the use of the funds allocated under this section. The report shall be made to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and to the Environmental Review Commission. A written copy of the report shall be provided to the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly.

Requested by: Senator Martin of Pitt, Representatives Mitchell, Baker, Carpenter, Fox

#### **EVALUATE SEPTIC TANKS IN THE NEUSE RIVER BASIN/ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION STUDY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SEPTIC TANK SYSTEMS**

**Section 15.16.** (a) Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources in this act, the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the 1997-98 fiscal year shall be used to evaluate septic tanks in the Neuse River Basin. This evaluation shall include all of the following:

- (1) The number of septic tanks.
- (2) The condition of the septic tanks.
- (3) Any potential groundwater contamination from malfunctioning septic tank systems.
- (4) The impact of hurricane damage and flooding on septic tank systems.
- (5) The cost to repair or replace failing septic tanks.
- (6) Any viable alternatives to septic tanks.

(b) No later than October 1, 1998, the Department shall report its findings on septic tanks to the Environmental Review Commission, the Fiscal Research Division, and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations. The Environmental Review Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on the first day of the 1999 Regular Session of the 1999 General Assembly.

(c) The Environmental Review Commission shall study the development of guidelines for best management practices for septic tank systems for both the installation of new septic tank systems and the replacement or improvement of existing septic tank systems that supplement any rules governing septic tank systems that are adopted by the Commission for Health